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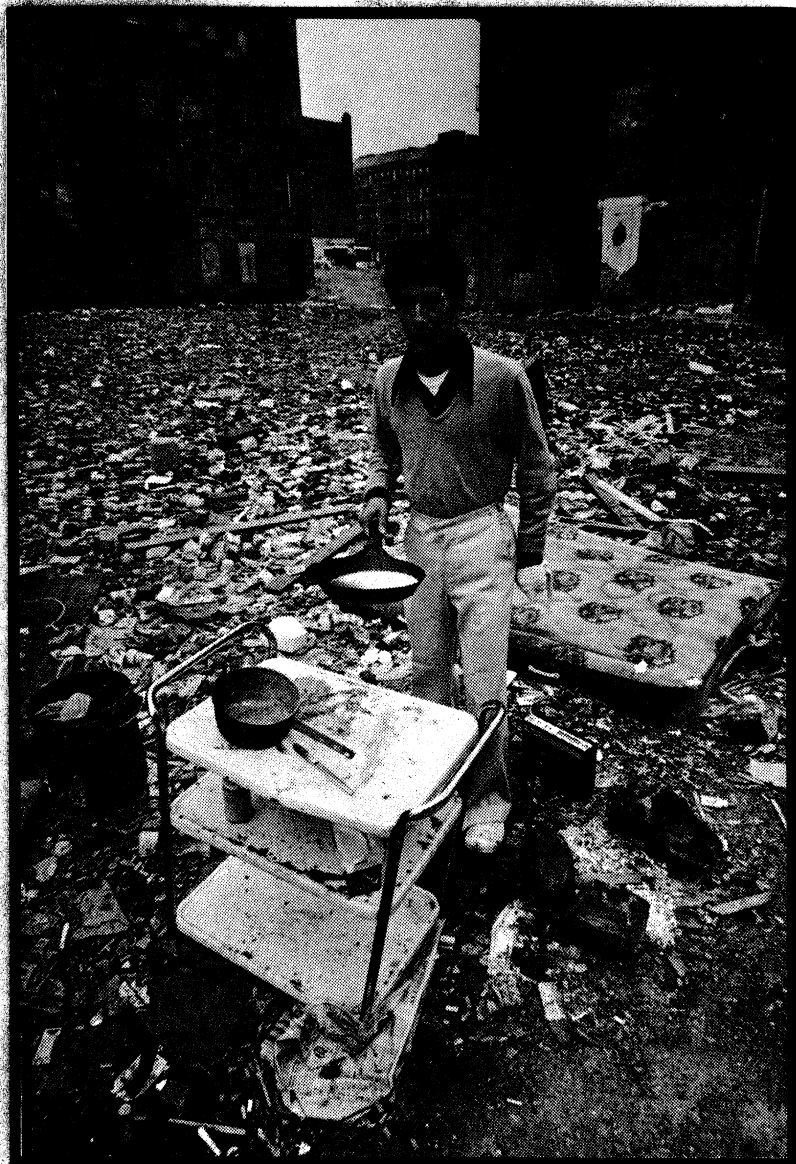
* Denotes short, 250 words or less

GRAPHICS

COVER: Photo of a man living in an abandoned lot across the street from his burned-out home in the South Bronx.

CREDIT: LNS Women's Graphics

HOUSING: Two pages of photos from the South Bronx..... P-1 & 2



BANKS AND URBAN DEVASTATION: Fire in the South Bronx

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LNS

LIBERATION News Service

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160 Claremont Ave.

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Telephone: (212) 749-2200

Hours: 9 am - 9 pm weekdays except Wednesday

STAFF COLLECTIVE: Minton Brooks, Ellen Garvey, Cidne Hart, Sarah Plant, Barbara Blog, Sandy Shea, Mike Shuster, Ron Sirak, Nancy Stiefel.

COMRADES: Ron Alden, Cathy Cockrell, Judy Rabinovitz.

CORRESPONDENTS: Schofield Coryell--Paris

LIBERATION News Service, now in its eighth year, publishes semi-weekly packets of news copy and graphic material which are printed on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Produced collectively, each packet contains approximately 10 pages of single-spaced copy and 1 to 3 pages of graphic material. The photographs are half tone on an 85-line screen.

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NOTES FROM THE COLLECTIVE

Dear folks,

We've devoted a full page of graphics in this packet to the South Bronx, where fires have left many poor people without homes, and ultimately lined the pockets of landlords, real estate speculators, and the banks.

With the South Bronx not far from our office, we were able to go take pictures and talk to people. But we could also use photos and articles on the housing situation in your areas.

What's happening in the South Bronx is not unique, but reveals similar forces at work in many cities. In this packet we've included information on "redlining," financing mortgages, and the crucial role of banks in creating poor neighborhoods.

We're glad to have gotten mostly favorable feedback on our cover format change. However, some subscribers have wondered how LNS can afford to print an extra color in the midst of a serious financial crisis that we continually call attention to. We'd like to explain:

All the printing is done right here by us in our basement office. The color press run is done about once every month, at which time we print a quantity sufficient to last for seven or eight issues. Then on each packet production day we run the pre-printed sheets through again, this time in black ink. The total material cost of the added color comes to about \$6 or \$8 a month.

Sometime soon we would like to begin using the color systematically, as an aid. Maybe each packet could alternate colors, or, perhaps for filing purposes, a whole month could be one color.

If you have the time, write to let us know what you think of the format and contents. We're open to suggestions.

Also--a warning: we've decided to send out joint July/August bills since we were so late in getting the July ones out. Please do not send less money because it's only one bill. We need to be paid for both months.

So long,
LNS.

IF YOU ARE MISSING A PAGE OR GET A BADLY PRINTED GRAPHIC, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL SEND YOU ANOTHER SOON!

(See graphics to go with the following)

FIRES RAVAGE SOUTH BRONX; LANDLORDS, BANKS BEHIND GHETTO HOUSING CRISIS

LIBERATION News Service

NEW YORK (LNS)--Fires have been raging throughout the South Bronx, leaving behind a landscape of rubble and debris which has been compared to the city of Dresden, Germany after the saturation bombings of World War II. At least one lot on every block is abandoned. People burned out of their homes have often taken up quarters inside of abandoned buildings, or set up shacks on burned out lots.

What is happening in the South Bronx is spreading, not only to surrounding areas but to other cities as well. Arson is reportedly on the rise in Boston, Detroit, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Minneapolis and Newark--and in all cases it is the cities' ghettos which suffer the most.

Although fires have been a problem in the South Bronx for the last 13 years, they only began receiving wide press coverage and city attention in May and June of this year. The people of the South Bronx, characterized as the "arsonists," were supposedly burning down their own buildings to collect emergency welfare benefits or to receive priority for public housing. Addicts were also blamed for setting the fires in order to vandalize the buildings.

Responding to this publicity, the city finally began an investigation, and on June 11, not tenants or drug addicts, but eight landlords were indicted on charges of arson. But these indictments hardly touched on the extent of the problem.

Made up principally of black and Hispanic ghettos, the South Bronx is one of the most poverty stricken urban areas in America. Forty percent of the population is on welfare. Thirty percent of those able to work are unemployed. Sixty thousand of the 80,000 housing units--most built at the turn of the century--are substandard. And fifty percent of the homes are without heat half of the time.

In the past few years the number of fires in the South Bronx has increased drastically. There were over 12,300 reported fires in the area in 1974--20 percent more than in the previous year. And in the first third of this year, 4100 fires have already been reported.

"It's like a ghost town up here," one fire captain told the Village Voice. "When I came here ten years ago, this street was filled with buildings and people. Now there's nothing left but rocks. The newspapers are suddenly screaming about arson as if it's a new thing up here. Hell, now it's too late."

"It's like living in Puerto Rico," said one person who had just been burned out of his apartment and was living in a boarded up shack without electricity or water. "I was a janitor across the street and many of the people in my building have moved to welfare hotels or still live in the rubble."

"Talk to anyone on the street," writes one reporter. "They all have been burned out. Or they have family who have been burned out."

WHO PROFITS FROM FIRES?

In the face of accusations that welfare people have set fire to their own homes to gain priority for public housing, Rafael Martinez, coordinator of the Fox Street Relocation Shelter, points out that many fire victims do not meet all the criteria for public housing and that the lack of public housing facilities means many are relocated in non public housing. Many others are waiting in temporary relocation centers until permanent housing can be found.

"Most have to move to worse neighborhoods because there's no room in public housing," explained Bill Whalen of White Lightning, a community organization in the South Bronx that deals with housing problems. "Welfare tenants start maybe 1% of the fires. But it's the poor conditions of the buildings in the first place that cause those few to set fires. Landlords are milking those buildings dry, refusing to do any repairs."

"The real problem is red lining," Whalen continued. "The whole South Bronx is red lined, which means the banks are refusing to reinvest in these areas for building repairs."

Father Neil Conley, whose church is located in one burned out area of the South Bronx and who was recently active in setting up a fire task force to investigate the situation, agrees.

"People who owned the buildings put no money into services in order to make as much as possible," Conley told LNS. "This means people move out and each time, the landlord can increase the rent. Some landlords actually try to attract welfare clients, not for altruistic motives, but for money, because the welfare department will pay the higher rents."

"Then when the building becomes too much of a headache," Conley continued, "the landlord abandons it. But even if the building's non-profitable, it can still be taken as a tax write off for depreciation. So it's convenient and profitable for landlords to have buildings that aren't in good shape."

It is not the tenants who have benefited from the arson attacks in the South Bronx, but the landlords who collect insurance on burned out buildings and the speculators who buy up abandoned property for more profitable building projects.

"Look, the South Bronx is only fifteen minutes from midtown Manhattan," explained Father Mario Barbel, organizer of a youth offenders program in the area. "This could be a gold mine of a middle class neighborhood. There's enough open land in the Bronx to start a couple of farms even!"

"Only trouble is it's filled with us niggers and spics," Barbel said. "If somehow we all got burned out--well the land lies fallow for a few years, and then you got yourself some good investment."

So far the eight landlords who have been caught
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

(Editor's Note: The following information comes from HOMEFRONT: Citywide Action Group Against Neighborhood Destruction and for Low Rent Housing. Their address is PO Box 269, Peter Stuyvesant Station, New York, N.Y. 10009.

Additional information is taken from a 70-page pamphlet called "Redevelopment in Philadelphia: Who Pays? Who Benefits?" Copies are available from the Philadelphia Tenants Information Service, 5622 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia, Pa 19144.)

RED LINING: HOW BANKS CREATE SLUMS

NEW YORK (LNS)--Banks and other finance institutions can effectively condemn communities by refusing to refinance mortgages to property owners in areas that they judge are on the decline. Lenders circle such areas in red on their maps and gradually withdraw their financing, investing their depositors' money in more profitable areas.

Banks "disinvest" in a community when it begins to lose its white, middle class predominance, because they believe that this change will cause the decline of property values. By acting on this belief, banks see that their prophesy is fulfilled, because disinvestment actually leads to the decline.

A study of disinvestment in the Bronx, sponsored by the National Urban League, found that as the number of black and Puerto Rican families increased between 1960 and 1970, the number and value of mortgages made by banks decreased accordingly.

And a 1973 study of the Northwest area of Philadelphia showed that banks withdrew financing as the area became integrated. As the non-white population of the area increased from 18% to 46% during 1960-1972, the percentages of bank mortgages declined from 73% to 33%.

In the northeast of Philadelphia however, which maintained a 99.9% white population in the same period, the percentage of mortgages remained constant--76% in 1960 and 78% in 1972. Disinvestment occurred in the Northwest community even though the blacks who moved in had higher average incomes than the whites in the northeast.

Often a red lined area has structurally sound housing, but the buildings are old and need upgrading. In order to improve a building, the landlords have to refinance their mortgages. They go back to the bank that holds the mortgage and request an additional loan, based on the supposed increased value of the property. If the bank has decided the property is on the decline, it will refuse to refinance the mortgage.

If landlords cannot refinance their buildings, they will probably take another short term course that will allow them to continue to profit: they will skimp on maintenance or "milk" the property. When the building has deteriorated so far that this is no longer possible the landlord will most likely abandon the building. Even when buildings are no longer bringing in a profit from rent, they can be beneficial to a landlord as tax write-offs.

How Landlords & Banks Make Profits From Housing

Landlords' major profits come from refinancing--not from rents. For example, suppose Mr. Jones buys a building that costs \$100,000. He puts up \$10,000

in cash and gets a mortgage loan of \$90,000. After a few years, tenants' rent has paid off \$20,000 of the mortgage.

Jones now owns \$30,000 worth of the building and owes the bank \$70,000. In the meantime, if the market value of the building has increased, say by \$30,000, he can go back to the bank and ask them to loan him that amount. The bank gives him \$30,000 and he promises to pay back the \$100,000 that he now owes out of tenants' rent.

The landlord now has \$30,000 cash in his pocket: he has regained his original \$10,000 investment, plus \$20,000 extra. He knows that the \$100,000 he owes the bank will be paid for by rent money. With his \$20,000 profit he can upgrade his building and/or purchase other buildings, and so the process continues.

But although Jones legally "owns" the building, his interest is actually subordinate to whatever finance institution mortgage -- whether it's a savings bank, savings and loan association, a commercial bank or an insurance company. And of course the finance institution will allow the landlord to continue to profit from the property as long as the bank wants to keep investing in it.

When banks pull out, non-institutional lenders (realty companies, individuals, etc.) step in to provide the mortgage at even higher interest rates.

But whether institutional or non-institutional lenders control the mortgage, much of our high rent money actually goes to pay the interest. To demonstrate this, look at housing built under a federal interest subsidy program where the federal government pays the difference between the market interest rate (say 8%) and a 1% interest rate. In such a housing program, rents go down from \$100 per room per month to \$40-\$50 per room a month. A drop in interest rates of seven percentage points halves the rent.

Where Does Depositors' Money Go?

Grays Ferry, a southwest Philadelphia community, was red lined several years ago. In the words of the president of a small savings and loan association in the area, "The lending institutions are scared half to death to go into an area like Grays Ferry. The main thrust of the savings and loan in recent years has been out of the neighborhood and into suburbia to finance new tracts, shopping centers and condominiums. The volume of money now being invested in the inner cities is infinitesimal."

This statement could apply to many city communities throughout the country. Savings banks still draw their money from the local population, but then remove the money from central city neighborhoods to invest in areas that give the highest, "risk-free" rate of return -- such as suburban development, land speculations, luxury housing and shopping centers.

The banks have accompanied the middle class in its flight to the suburbs. Between 1967 and 1973 Philadelphia banks increased their suburban branches by 37%, and according to one study, "local savings and loan may very well invest more in Florida and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

[See #693 for background on the Dominican Republic.]

TRADE UNIONISTS, LEFTISTS ARRESTED IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

NEW YORK (LNS)--The Dominican Republic government of Joaquin Balaguer has unleashed a massive wave of repression against labor and other forces opposing his rule. More than 500 people have been arrested as of July, with no legal charges brought against them. The Dominican government has justified the mass arrests by calling activists "matters of interest to the police."

A particular target of attack by the right-wing government is the General Confederation of Workers (CGT), an independent confederation of progressive unions. Militant union activity has increased since its establishment in February of 1972.

CGT Secretary General Francisco Santos and CGT Executive Bureau member Eugenio Cepeda are among the hundreds of people recently arrested. The two leaders, along with another CGT official, Julio de Pena Valdez, and a former leader of the Popular Dominican Movement (MPD), David Espallat, have been accused by the police of having conspired to "overthrow the government."

Police have since threatened to use Article 89 of the Legal Code against the four, which allows the government to accuse the detainees of being the "intellectual authors" of such a plot, without proof.

This "legal" provision is used to imprison and exile activists when the government cannot establish the existence of actual conspiracy. MPD leader Rafael "Fafa" Taveras, for instance, was kept in prison under Article 89 for five years. Although Fafa was released on June 19, 1975, he remains under virtual house arrest and at any time may be forced into exile.

Labor activity is increasing in the Dominican Republic as inflation soars at about 25% a year. More than 35% of the Dominican workforce is unemployed, and in some areas unemployment has reached 50%. Facing acute poverty, hundreds of thousands of Dominicans have left the country to seek work in the United States in recent years.

The last six months have seen major union struggles among dockworkers, tobacco and cotton plantation workers, hospital and telephone workers, miners and others. In March, for example, 40,000 construction workers went on strike for their first wage increase in more than a decade.

The CGT has also organized outside the workplace, sponsoring public anti-inflation rallies in conjunction with committees of community women. They have called for the democratic rights of unions, the liberation of imprisoned trade unionists and other political activists, and the return of those in exile.

Also active in the opposition is a leftist-dominated coalition whose members include the MPD, the Dominican Revolutionary Party, the Revolutionary Social Democratic Party and others. Their fight focuses on the transnational corporations whose powerful presence in the Dominican Republic backs up Balaguer's rightist rule.

Gulf & Western, for example, the New York-based conglomerate, controls one-third of the island's sugar production -- sugar representing 50% of the country's entire exports. In a country with widespread malnutrition, Gulf & Western controls 10% of all

farmland in its production and processing of beef, fruit, vegetables and tobacco for export.

The recent government crackdown follows long-time repression of opposition forces. Since Balaguer first took power in 1966, between one and two thousand Dominicans have been murdered by right-wing terrorist bands and police trained by the United States.

A year earlier, in 1965, thousands of U.S. Marines invaded the island, to counter "Communist subversion" and put down the popular civilian-military movement that was attempting to restore the Constitution.

* * *

The CGT urges people to denounce the recent repression. People can send cables and letters demanding the release of CGT members and other detainees, and condemning the role of multinationals such as Gulf & Western, Falconbridge Nickel and Alcoa. Address correspondence to President Joaquin Balaguer, c/o La Noticia, Julio Verne 14, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and send a copy to the Latin American Working Group, Box 3600 Station A, Toronto, Canada. The Working Group will also be able to help with more information about the Dominican Republic.

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LNO -- THE NEWEST THING IN NUCLEAR WARFARE

WASHINGTON (LNS)--U.S. Air Force bomber crews have been ordered to start training for fighting a limited nuclear war in case the U.S. government should want to exercise that option, the Washington Post reported recently.

Many crews, under top secret orders, have already received new "mission folders" for practice B-52 runs that are part of what the Pentagon calls "LNO," or Limited Nuclear Option.

These instructions, says the Post, "represent another step in the Ford Administration's decision to prepare the nation for a small nuclear war, where destruction might be controlled, as well as for a war of massive incineration."

But the administration has not yet elaborated how this "small nuclear war" could be carried out. And many contend that there can be no such thing.

The recent orders indicate that President Ford and Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger have rejected that argument. But a spokesperson for the Pentagon said recently that he could not comment on the specifics of such military planning.

The spokesperson added, however, that Schlesinger "has enunciated the change in nuclear strategy and it would, therefore, be a natural follow up for the military to start revising our plans."

Schlesinger, apparently the brains behind the plans, has championed a more "flexible" nuclear strategy for two years now.

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summer news from your community? Let LNS and others around the country know about it. Call or write today!

from: Wichita Workers and Oppressed Peoples United,
1715 N. St. Francis, Wichita, Ks. 67214. (316)
263-3946.

Wichita Workers and Oppressed Peoples United (WWOPU) has just put out a four page leaflet on the Ku Klux Klan which includes a history of the KKK and accounts of its recent activity in the Wichita area. Write to them for copies.

WWOPU is a community-based, multi-national organization actively struggling for the elimination of racism, sexism and imperialism. For more information about the group, including a copy of their principles of unity, contact them at the above address.

* * * *

from: Youth Liberation, 2007 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104.

Youth Liberation was formed in 1971. One of our programs is publishing FPS, a magazine of young people's liberation. It comes out every month with articles about aspects of organizing young people and other important issues. Four issues of the magazine each year are devoted specifically to schooling and education in America.

CHIPS, the Cooperative Highschool Independent Press Syndicate, is a service we provide for independent and underground youth newspapers; its goal is to let you see copies of papers that other young people are putting out. To help young people who are trying to do organizing, we've put some of our materials together in a Youth Liberation Organizing Kit.

For more information about FPS, CHIPS, the organizing kit and a complete list of literature available, write to Youth Liberation at the above address.

* * * *

from: The American Committee on Africa, 164 Madison Ave. New York, N.Y. 10016. (212) 532-3700.

The American Committee on Africa's summer 1975 "Southern Africa Literature List" is now available, with many different articles and books on South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands. ACOA is a non-profit organization that works to mobilize public support in the United States for independence and freedom in Africa.

* * * *

from: Research Group One, 2743 Maryland Ave., Baltimore, Md 21218. (301) 243-6987.

"Women and Men--a Socioeconomic Factbook" is one of several pamphlets available from Research Group One. The first part of the pamphlet puts in readable form all of the major socioeconomic census materials relating to the effects of institutionalized sexism. Part two summarizes every major national American study, 1933-1975, that deals with attitudes towards women and men, and towards the women's movement. First printed in 1973 and reprinted in 1974, this new edition of Women and Men is revised, expanded and updated.

RG-1 began in 1971 on the premise that it was necessary for radical intellectuals to escape their dependence on universities and their entrapment in the corrosive confines of bureaucratic organizations.

We do research in a variety of local and national contexts. Some of our work is distributed through our pamphlet report series and some through our weekly radio program. Other RG-1 pamphlets include "The Politics of News Media Control," "Tracking in the Community Colleges," and "Education in the People's Republic of China." For more information, contact RG-1 at the above address.

* * * *

from: Occupational Health Project (MCHR), 558 Capp St., San Francisco, CA. 94110.

The Occupational Health Project of the Medical Committee on Human Rights has recently published a list of "Useful Readings in Occupational Health," including tools for organizing, information on medical malpractice and the law, and political analysis. Write to the group for information on how to order.

* * * *

from: Alternative Press Digest, 22 Dane Rd., Margate Kent, England.

If you are not already exchanging with us we would like to hear from you and if your funds permit to be put on your exchange mailing list. If you are as poor as we are and can't afford to send us every copy you publish, perhaps you could send us copies whenever you can. Also, if you would like to be included in the UAPS Catalogue of Alternative Papers, write to us and we'll send you an application form.

* * * *

from: Emma Goldman Information Exchange, 41 Union Square, Rm 1327, New York, N.Y. 10003.

The Emma Goldman Information Exchange is a clearing house for information, analysis and materials on population and birth control from a radical-feminist, anti-imperialist and non-Malthusian perspective and serves as a focal point for people in the U.S. and around the world opposed to existing theories and programs on population.

We now have copies available of a leaflet we wrote for the World Population Conference entitled "Family Planning and Women: Means to Liberation or Method of Control?" Future leaflets will cover mass sterilization camps; population and poverty; food, population and "triage" and myths and facts about "population problems." We are also gathering information about DES, DepoProvera and forced sterilization. Any information would be appreciated.

* * * *

from: Liberation, 339 Lafayette St., N.Y., N.Y. 10012

We'd like you to get acquainted with us, so we're offering a special subscription rate of 6 issues for \$5. Liberation is a monthly magazine that's been exploring the ideas, movements and new directions to liberation for nearly 20 years. Recent issues have contained such articles as "How to Read Donald Duck," by Ariel Dorfman and Arnold Mattelart, "Feminism and Socialism" by Leah Fritz, "Energy and Eco-technocracy" by Murray Bookchin, and more.

To subscribe, send \$5 for 6 issues or \$10 for a year (10 issues).

END OF RMBB

[Note to editors: This news story, written from information provided by Internews, is an update on the news and background on Argentina in the last packet, #715.]

ARGENTINE PRESIDENT DROPS LOPEZ REGA FROM GOV'T, BUT HIS RIGHT-WING FOLLOWERS REMAIN

NEW YORK (LNS)--Argentina's President Isabel Peron gave in to enormous pressure July 11 from organized labor, left-wing guerrillas and the army and dropped her top advisor, Jose Lopez Rega, from her new cabinet.

But the removal of Lopez Rega, an extreme right-winger who served as Social Welfare Minister and as Peron's private secretary, appears to be no more than a symbolic gesture to appease the opposition.

The new 8-man cabinet is dominated by politicians close to Lopez Rega and is expected to follow his same right-wing policies, including the economic austerity measures that sparked the current crisis in Argentina and forced the entire cabinet to resign on Sunday, July 6.

One such politician who also served in the last cabinet is the Minister of Economy, Celestino Rodrigo. Rodrigo recently ordered a massive devaluation of the peso and huge increases in prices for all food and basic products despite a soaring 100% inflation rate, which some have predicted will hit 200% by the end of 1975.

These austerity measures, which Rodrigo called a "shock treatment" for the Argentine economy, have been denounced by the normally pro-government General Labor Confederation (CGT). Conservative union officials had their hands full throughout June trying to suppress wildcat strikes against the new policies. Pressured by their militant rank and file, the CGT finally called a demonstration of 50,000 in front of the presidential palace in Buenos Aires on June 27.

A general strike which paralyzed the country was organized a week and a half later to demand that Peron permit negotiated wage increases which she had previously said she would not respect. Peron gave in to the strikers' demands and agreed to the wage hikes, but her decision to keep the same Minister of the Economy is likely to anger militant workers once again.

Lopez Rega was replaced as Social Welfare Minister by his former deputy and supporter, Carlos Vilone, and still another one of his trusted followers, Julio Gonzales, has taken over the key post of private secretary to Peron.

Lopez Rega, who said he was stepping down as a "patriotic gesture to help pacify the perturbed spirits," has been Peron's closest advisor throughout her first year in office, and has wielded great power in the government.

Recent Argentine newspaper reports, and charges by legislators, have linked him to a right-wing terrorist group called the Argentine Anti-Communist Alliance (AAA) which has assassinated over 200 people in the last year.

The AAA has denounced those it threatens with death as "marxists and judaizers." The press close to Lopez Rega has flaunted slightly altered swastikas, and the government television station has run a

series of Nazi war films. Lopez Rega is also a frequent visitor to Brazil where a right-wing military junta has been in power since 1964.

The militant labor movement and the left and left Peronist guerrilla movements, have opposed Lopez Rega for some time. But even the army recently counseled Peron that her advisor was too controversial a figure to safely keep on in a high government post.

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NATIONAL MILITARY DISCHARGE PROJECT FORMED

NEW YORK (LNS)--The Georgetown Law Center and the National Conference of Black Lawyers have established a National Military Discharge Project to represent service people dismissed with less than honorable discharges.

The person who receives a less than honorable discharge, according to the directors of the project, "loses all benefits and is stigmatized in civilian life from obtaining employment. We are also aware that black and minority group veterans are more likely to be discharged by these methods and that few know that these discharges may be challenged."

Over 80% of the less than honorable discharges awarded since 1960 have been given on such grounds as "bedwetting," "homosexual tendencies," "apathy," and "defective attitudes," and have been given without court-martial. Since the beginning of the Vietnam war, 581,755 veterans have been released on such terms.

The Military Discharge Project will represent service people dismissed with less than honorable discharges before Discharge Review Boards and the Military Appellate Courts, through a central office in Washington, D.C. and field offices in New York City and Atlanta.

For further information, contact Lennox S. Hinds, 126 West 119 St., New York, New York 10026. Phone (212) 866-3501.

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SWEETENER NOW UNSAFE BEFORE USE

NEW YORK (LNS)--E. R. Squibb, the major drug manufacturer, announced that it is recalling about 50,000 bottles of saccharin tablets, some of which have been exploding on pharmacy and retail grocery shelves, the Food and Drug Administration said in mid-June.

The bottles exploded, the FDA said, because a new design of caps failed to vent carbon dioxide released by the sugar substitute. No injuries have been reported.

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Please remember that this month's bill is really two months of bills -- we were late in sending out July's. In any case, we're still way behind on our salaries. So help out as much as you can. Pay back bills and July/August bills as quickly as you can. Thanks. LNS.

U.S. MULTINATIONALS USE PRISON LABOR

NEW YORK (INTERNEWS/LNS)--Several large U.S. corporations, including B.F. Goodrich, Colgate-Palmolive, and the Container Corporation of America, are using prisoners in Colombia as cheap labor, according to a special investigative report in the Wall Street Journal. The prisoners are paid as little as 45¢ a day for eight hours work.

In all cases mentioned by the paper, the U.S. multinationals paid the prisoners less than the Colombian minimum wage of \$1.33 a day, and one U.S. official told the Journal the prisoner work program "could be labeled as exploitation of slave labor for a profit."

Some of the prison labor projects have been going on for as long as ten years.

Colombian prison authorities say that about 6000 prisoners are currently working for U.S. multinational and Colombian corporations. About 75% of the prisoners have never been convicted, according to the Journal, and some have awaited trial for as long as ten years.

Seventy large Colombian and U.S. companies are supporting a plan to put the entire prison population to work for private corporations. According to the Journal, the proposal has been made by a group called "Action in Colombia," which is financed by Bank of America, Dow Chemical, and IBM, among others.

Union leaders in Colombia told the Journal they were unaware of the prison work program, but strongly opposed it. Jorge Carillo, head of Colombia's largest labor federation, said "This would endanger the jobs of factory workers, augment unemployment, and could even be a way to break or stop a union."

"I wish I could say we were led into this by higher motives, but I really can't," Raymond Miezelis, vice president of Carton de Colombia, a Container Corporation subsidiary, told the Journal. "We've just needed a little extra help in the production lines lately so..."

Carton de Colombia pays prisoners about 45¢ a day to assemble egg cartons, about 5% of the wages of the company's non-prisoner workers.

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ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

CRONKITE DEFENDS OVERSEAS BRIBERY

NEW YORK (LNS)--During a business conference this spring at Rutgers University, CBS-TV News anchor Walter Cronkite said that bribery of officials in other countries is sometimes necessary.

Cronkite was responding to a question put to another participant in the annual conference, the chief executive of A.T.&T., who was asked to comment on recent revelations that officials of American multinational corporations had made bribes to many countries.

"IF that's the way they [the countries] operate, that's the way you're going to have to operate," said Cronkite, according to Associated Press.

Cronkite stated that bribery may be an integral part of a country's lifestyle, or at least more acceptable in some countries than in others.

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GLIMPSE INTO SECRET FBI WIRETAP ROOM FROM FORMER EMPLOYEE

WASHINGTON (LNS)--The FBI operates a secret wire-tap monitoring installation in the Old Post Office Building in Washinton, D.C., according to a deposition from a former FBI employee filed in a suit against the Justice Department.

In the wiretap room, dozens of "investigative clerks" sit before modified switchboards at library-style tables, headphones clamped over their ears, reference books at their sides to help identify names, waiting to listen in on conversations picked up on domestic wiretaps.

The deposition is from Ernest H. Belter, who from 1961 to 1973 says he personally installed nearly 90% of all "national security wiretaps" in Washington and supervised their monitoring. His statement was taken by attorneys in a lawsuit by Morton Halperin, the former National Security Council aide who was one of 17 government officials and reporters whose telephones were ordered tapped by the Nixon Administration.

FBI employees monitoring the tapes were told to keep no records of their activities concerning the taps, and not to discuss their assignments even with other FBI employees within the monitoring post.

In general, monitoring clerks were told to listen for all possible information about known and suspected spies, including their sex habits and possible drug use. But in the taps on government officials and reporters, the monitor was given a "broad area in which [the subject] was interested, so that he would [include in the logs] conversations that had to do with almost all the day-to-day concerns of the U.S. government."

Balter said that to install a tap he would make arrangements through a telephone company official on behalf of the FBI to get a specific telephone line connected to a trunk cable running to the Old Post Office Building. There he would make the actual installation of the tap, and connect it to tape recorders.

The monitors were equipped with a switchboard with a light and buzzer which would indicate when there was activity on the tapped line. If the conversations were considered important enough, they were typed verbatim soon after they were concluded.

Belter said that the sophisticated equipment used makes national security taps almost impossible to detect, and if a customer whose line was tapped reported trouble on the line, the telephone company would immediately immediately tell the FBI to remove the tap so it would not be discovered in any line check.

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"At LIFE we publish articles on "How a Wife Should Undress" and pictures of nudes, of snakes, of the rear of a hippopotamus. Evidently it is what the public wants. We intend to be proud of it."

--Henry Luce, publisher of Time,
Life, and Fortune. 1937.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR FORUM CALLS FOR
TRADE UNION BOYCOTT OF CHILEAN JUNTA

by Fred Hirsch

MEXICO CITY (LNS)--A panel of the United Nations International Women's Year forum, held in Mexico City in June, approved a resolution calling on trade unions to organize a worldwide economic boycott to "assist democratic forces in Chile." The measure was passed by a panel on "Trade Unionism and the Status of Women," despite opposition from U.S. delegates who organized the panel.

"Unions are basic to improving the status of women, and real unions can't be organized under fascism," said Isabel Garcia, sponsor of the resolution and a leader of the Union of Academic Personnel at the University of Mexico.

"The fascism in Chile is an example of what may be in store for all of us in America, both North and South. It's the duty of unionists to use their solidarity to defeat the Pinochet government which has outlawed the unions and murdered leaders and activists."

General Augusto Pinochet heads the right-wing military junta that overthrew the Popular Unity (UP) government of Salvador Allende in September, 1973.

The resolution reads: "We urge the U.S. government to bring full diplomatic and economic pressure to bear on the Chilean tyrannical regime to end its barbarism....We also urge trade unions everywhere to consider joint action for an effective, worldwide economic boycott with a view of assisting democratic forces inside Chile..."

The text of the resolution -- taken from a 1970 statement on Spain and Franco by AFL-CIO leader George Meany -- was changed to refer to Chile and Augusto Pinochet.

Fanny Simon, an American delegate who said she organized the panel, objected to the resolution, which was passed overwhelmingly. "I intended this to be a non-political conference," she said, "and besides, the AFL-CIO passed a Chile resolution last year."

A speaker from the audience commented, however, that the "AFL-CIO resolution rode both sides of the fence." That resolution stated, "Trade unionists did not mourn the departure of a Marxist regime which brought that nation to political, social and economic ruin" and that Chileans "accepted the coup as a necessary act."

A Chilean woman who had led the Bank Workers Union before the right-wing coup in 1973 called a portion of the AFL-CIO resolution "a statement we hear from Pinochet himself. It is nothing but a lie."

In addition, the AFL-CIO's international labor organization, AIFLD (American Institute for Free Labor Development), operates as a cover for CIA activities throughout the world. In Chile, the AIFLD gave much material support to right-wing trade unions whose actions helped to weaken

the UP government.

Ana de Rojas, president of the Union of Workers in the School of Public Health in Santiago before the coup, told the audience "Pinochet's government has murdered 30,000 Chileans and put many thousands more in torture houses and concentration camps, and it is trade unionists and women who have suffered the most."

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CHILEAN JUNTA DENIES ENTRY TO HUMAN RIGHTS
INVESTIGATORS

SANTIAGO (LNS)--Chile's military junta has denied entry to the United Nations Human Rights Commission to investigate violations of human rights. The six-nation Human Rights Commission had been scheduled to visit Chile on July 11, but Augusto Pinochet, head of the right-wing military junta, sent a message saying the group would not be allowed in at this time.

United States Deputy Secretary of State Robert Ingersoll and other officials were particularly annoyed, according to the New York Times, since the Chilean junta had earlier agreed to allow the investigation in an attempt to stave off international criticism. When the Human Rights commission was about to issue a condemnation last winter, of Chile's repression, torture and imprisonment of opposition forces, the United States and Chilean governments convinced the body to go on a fact-finding mission instead.

"The denial," said Maxine Orris of the Chile Solidarity Committee, a U.S. support group, "is an admission by the Pinochet government of violations of human rights, and further isolates the Chilean junta internationally."

As a result, she said, "the resistance and other international forces will gain support. When Chile backs down like this, it allows for a much stronger condemnation of Chile for the denial of human rights."

When Deputy Secretary of State Ingersoll met in mid-July with Chilean Deputy Foreign Minister Enrique Valdez to discuss the junta's about-face, Valdez stated that Chile had not "canceled" the visit, but had merely "postponed it until a more opportune time."

And at the United Nations, Chilean delegate Claudio Collados sent a letter to Secretary General Waldheim asking that the human rights panel be dissolved, since Chile had refused it entry. Earlier, the Chilean government denounced the panel as Communist-dominated and therefore not "objective."

Human Rights Commission members are from Pakistan, Belgium, Ecuador, Austria, Sierra Leone, and Rumania.

* * *

Petitions demanding the expulsion of Chile from the United Nations are being circulated by the National Coordinating Committee in Solidarity with Chile. For more information, contact Chile Solidarity Committee, 156 Fifth Ave., rm. 1001, New York, N.Y. 10010. Phone (212) 691-9025. (Thanks to Chile Solidarity Committee).

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more....

WASHINGTON (LNS)--Attorney General Edward Levi admitted in late June that the Department of Justice had authorized national security wiretaps without warrants on 148 persons last year, a significant increase over the yearly average of the previous five years.

He also said that FBI agents, acting with the Attorney General's required approval, had installed hidden listening devices to pick up the conversations of an additional 32 people.

The Supreme Court unanimously ruled in 1973 that federal law required the government to obtain court warrants to tap or bug domestic groups in criminal investigations.

But, the Attorney General said, the court "expressly left open the question of whether the warrant requirement applies to electronic surveillance conducted for national security and foreign intelligence purposes."

Levi also said he would not approve requests for warrantless taps or bugs unless he was "satisfied that the subject of the surveillance is either assisting a foreign power or foreign-based political group or plans unlawful activity directed against a foreign power or foreign-based political group."

Levi admitted to authorizing at least 91 taps during the first four months of 1975.

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BOARD OF CORRECTIONS REPORTS CONDITIONS AT RIKERS ISLAND PRISON DETERIORATING

NEW YORK (LNS)--New York City's Rikers Island House of Detention for Men has become dangerously overpopulated and understaffed, according to a report by New York City Board of Corrections.

The 1,640 people at the prison occupy less than 1,500 "usable" cells, forcing some prisoners to share tiny 8 foot by 5 foot cells.

Further overcrowding is expected as the Bronx House of Detention is scheduled to close, and most of its 300 prisoners will be transferred to Rikers Island.

Statistics supplied by the prison show increased tension among prisoners and jail authorities. For the first three months of 1975, there were 595 incidents of assault, compared with 228 incidents recorded for the same period last year.

And city butbacks have caused even further shortages of personnel and a decrease in prison programs.

The Legal Aid Society of New York has filed a class action suit on behalf of the Rikers prisoners, charging that their constitutional rights are being violated because of overcrowding and restrictions on educational, recreational and visiting opportunities.

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(Thanks to the Black Panther newspaper for this information).

FIRES RAVAGE SOUTH BRONX--continued from page 1

and indicted own only two or three buildings. During his investigations, Father Conley and others have come to suspect an arson ring operating in the South Bronx which landlords can go to if they want to burn their buildings.

"The landlords give the kids five, ten bucks to start fires," one resident of a burned-out area told LNS. And another said, "One of my friends who used to be an addict said that landlords were always offering him money to burn their buildings."

"But arson or conspiracy to commit arson is hard to prove," Conley explained. "The small number of landlords indicted so far just shows the long lack of attention that the city has directed to this problem."

"The type of investigative work necessary for arson conviction is hardly routine, and requires a lot of information," Conley said. "The damage has been done now and it's pretty tough to find out who's done it. The investigators will get some of them. But it's too late. Probably a lot of people made a lot of money and got away."

"Fires can happen in the South Bronx because people in the city government don't care about it," explained Conley. "It's a very, very poor area, and poor people have no political clout so they get pushed around. The city only responds to political pressure. But the South Bronx population is poor, transient, immigrants, illegals, so the city can do whatever it wants with them."

"The South Bronx has a terrible history. Drugs add to a general sense of frustration and depression. People feel helpless in the midst of overwhelming social problems."

One Puerto Rican resident who used to be a gang member told New Times magazine, "They [the city] don't think the area can be saved. They figure we're lost, so they might as well spend money somewhere else. We're the first place to get services cut. Fire Department, Sanitation Department...They're just waiting for the South Bronx to destroy itself."

Conley pointed out that the people displaced by the fires are now moving to the Grand Concourse section of the Bronx which is rapidly showing the same signs of decay:

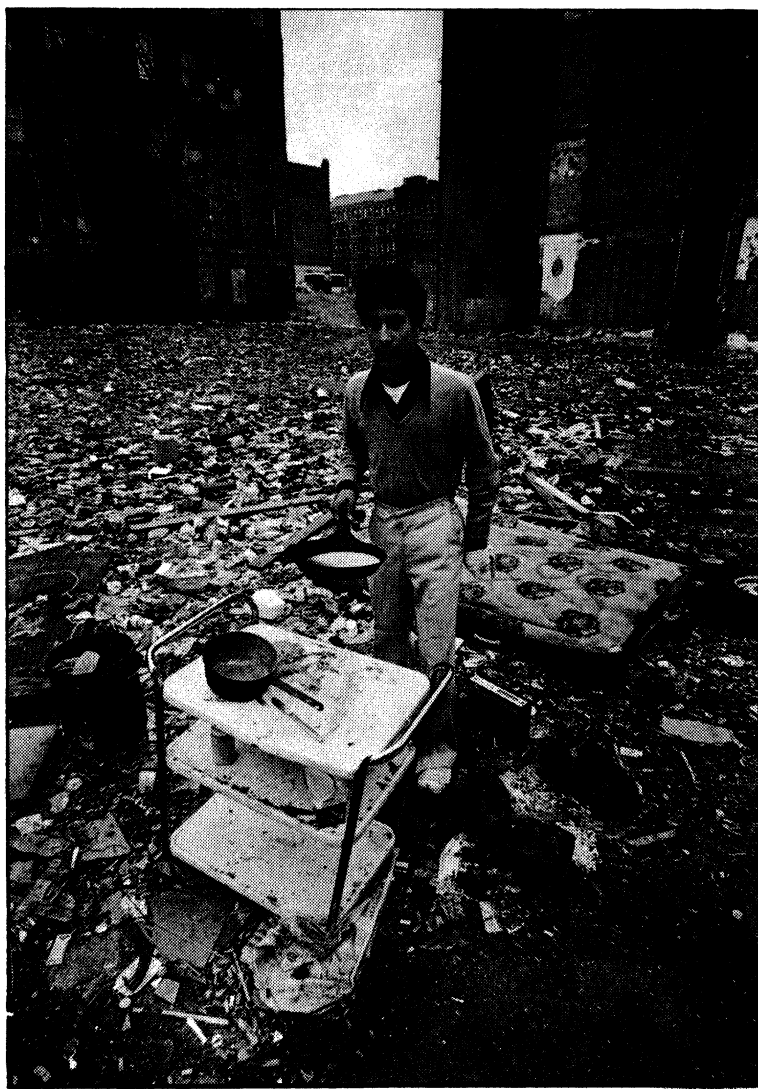
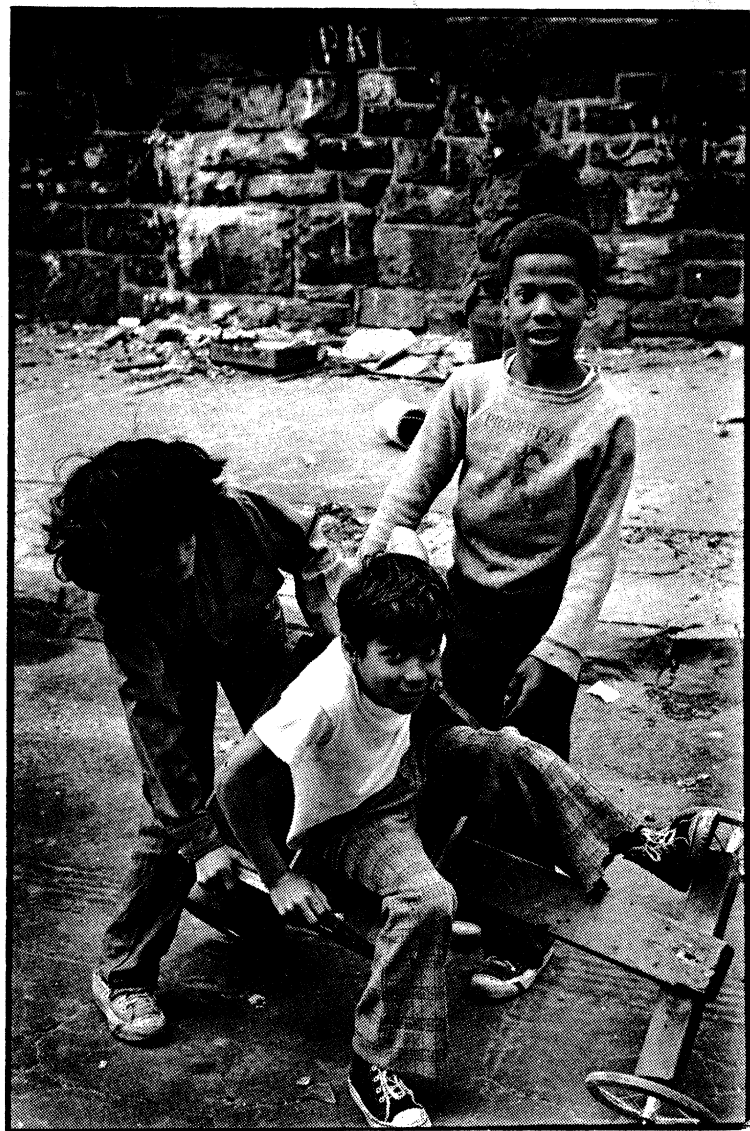
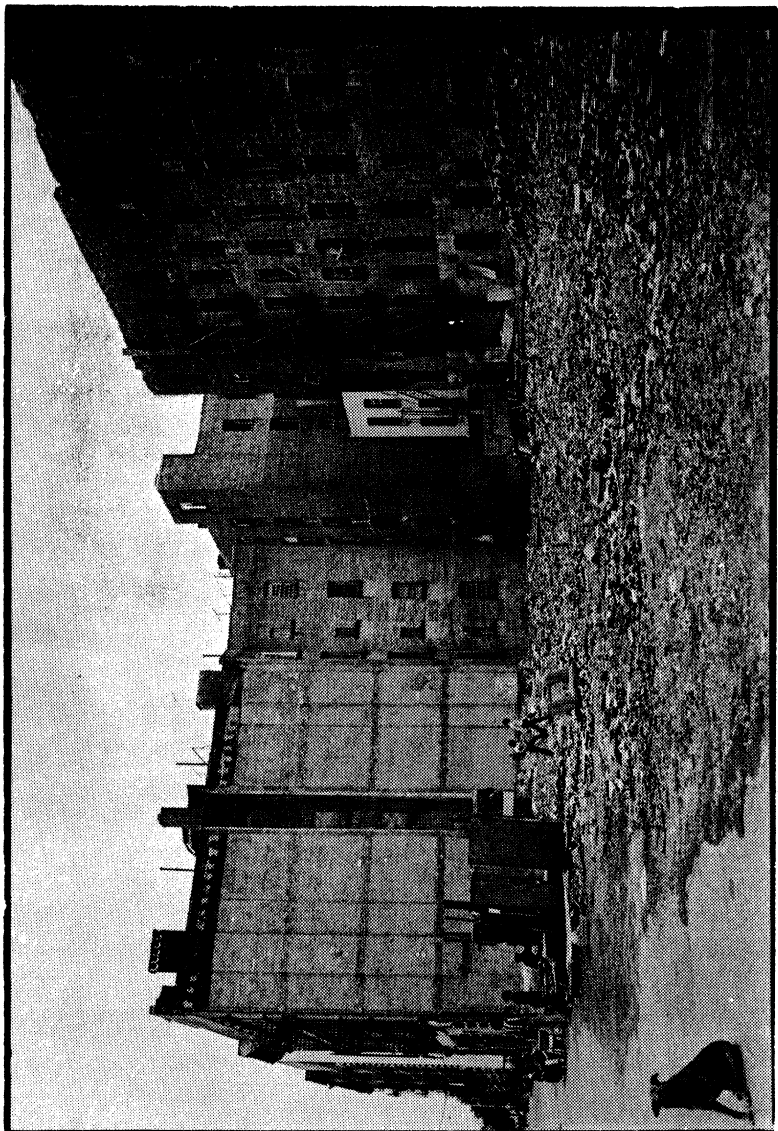
"It's a pattern. It's insane. It doesn't happen by accident. The money interests, speculators, banks, see these things going on. They create the changes. It looks like it just happens. But it's planned."

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REDLINING: HOW BANKS CREATE SLUMS--continued from p. 2
California than in Pennsylvania.

The Federal Home Loan Bank Board is supposed to regulate federally chartered savings and loan associations, but it does nothing to discourage or investigate red lining.

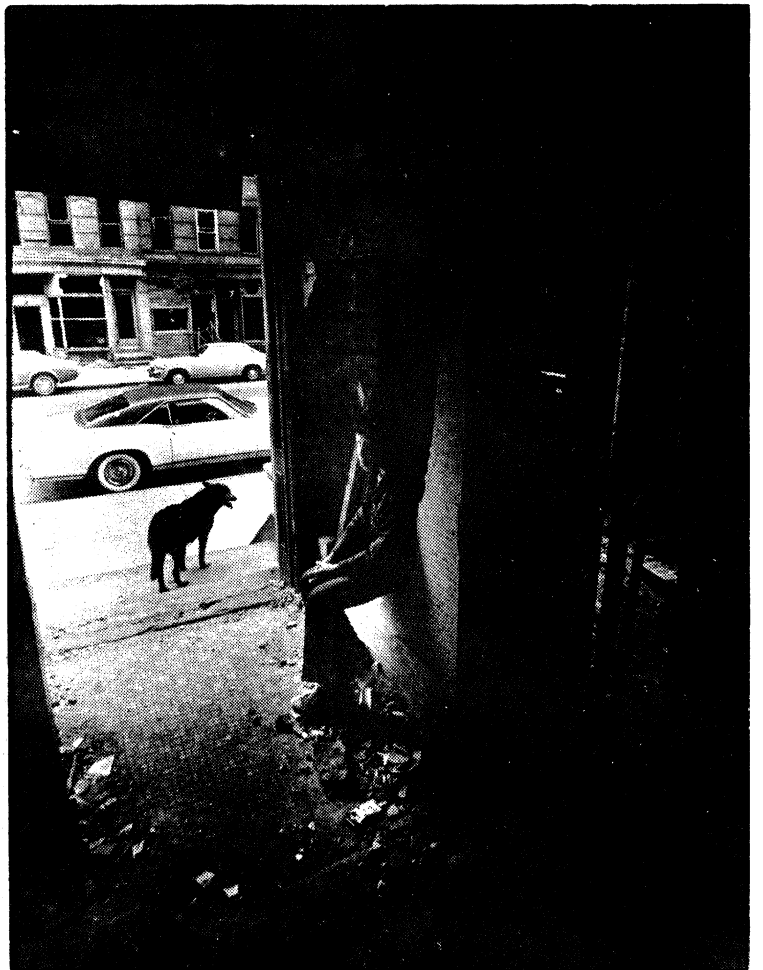
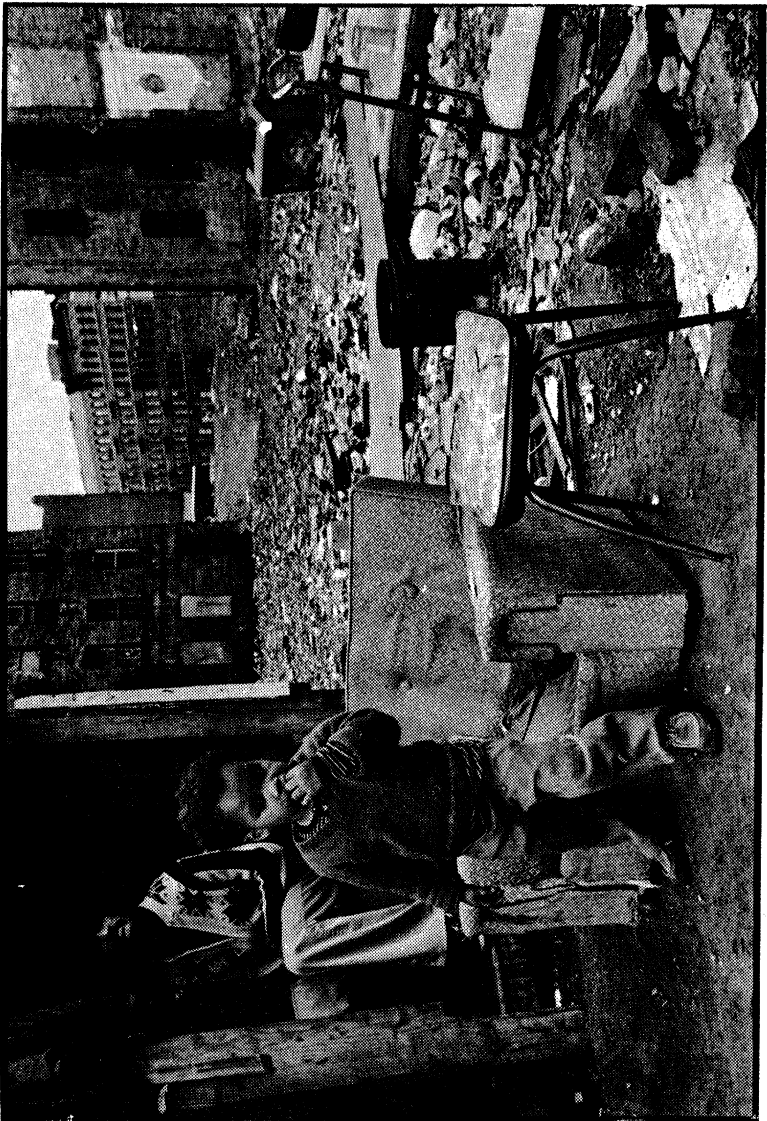
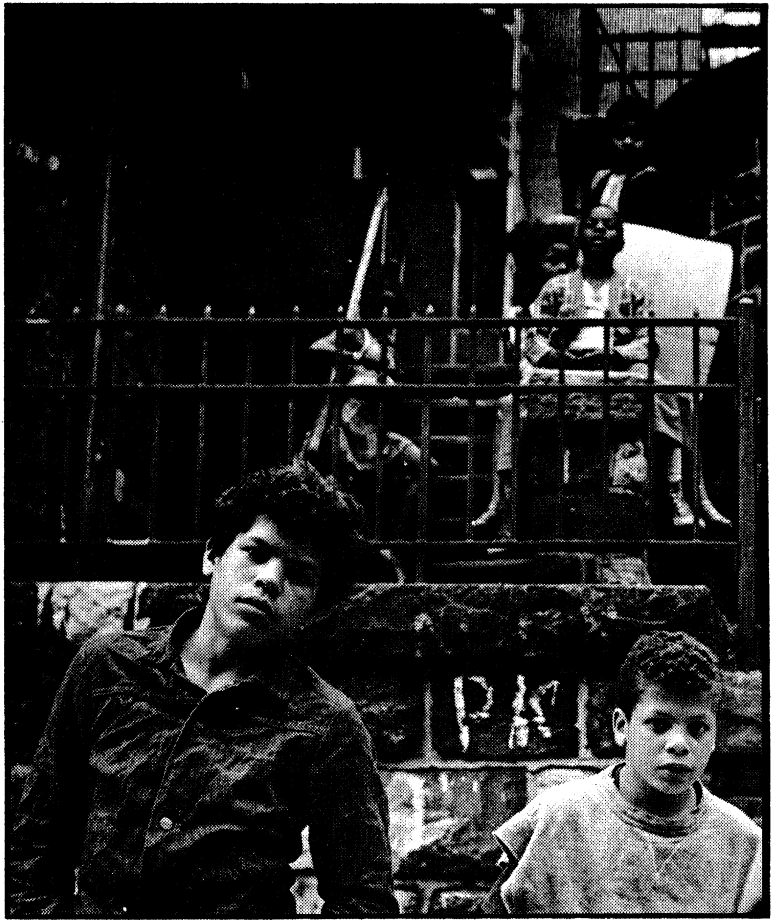
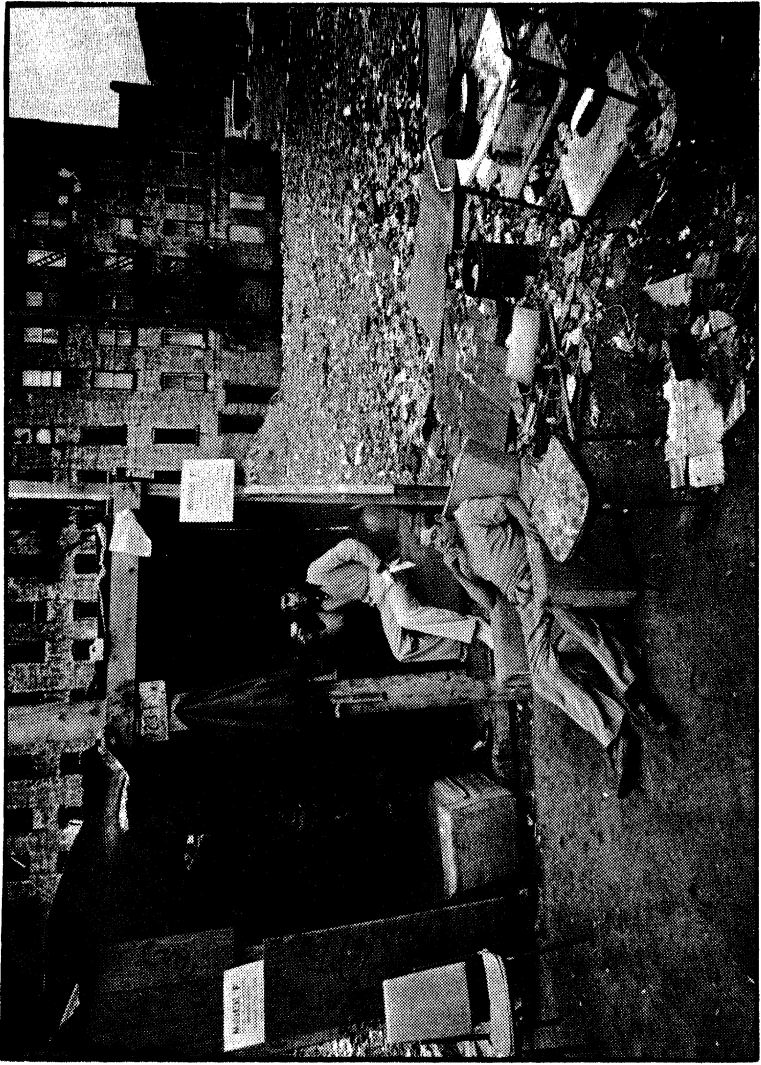
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A PAGE OF PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN IN JUNE, 1975 IN
THE SOUTH BRONX, N.Y.C.

COULD GO WITH STORIES ON HOUSING, GHETTOS, URBAN RENEWAL, CHILDREN.
SEE PAGE ONE FOR THE STORY ON THE SOUTH BRONX AND REDLINING.

CREDIT: LNS WOMENS GRAPHICS



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